

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-14, 16, 17, 19-21 and 23-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3, 4, 15, 18, and 22 are canceled, claim 14 is amended to cure an informality, claims 1, 10, 14, 17, and 19 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claims 3-4, 1, 1, 15, 18 and 17, respectively; claims 5, 8, 16 and 21 are amended to change their respective dependencies, and claims 24-36 are added. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the subject matter of the new claims is found at, for example, claims 2-7, 14 and 23.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement with a form PTO-1449 to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 11, 2006. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge having considered each of the references cited therein by initialing each of the references cited on the form PTO-1449 and returning the signed form PTO-1449 to Applicants' representative.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that each of claims 15, 16 and 18-20 would be allowed if each were combined with its base claim and any intervening claims.

To this end, claim 14 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 15, claim 17 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 18, and claim 19 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 17.

Accordingly, claims 14, 17 and 19, as well as claims 16, 20, 21, 35 and 36 depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

III. Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claim 14 for an informality and objects to claims 6-13, 21 and 23 as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim may not depend from another multiple dependent claim.

Applicants herein amend claim 14 as suggested by the Examiner. Furthermore, with respect to the objection to claims 6-13, 21 and 23 as being improper multiple dependent claims, Applicants submit that there are no multiple dependent claims in the application. In particular, Applicants filed a Preliminary Amendment on August 2, 2004 removing all the multiple dependencies in the claims. Applicants resubmitted the August 2, 2004 Preliminary Amendment with the date-stamped filing receipt evidencing that the Amendment was properly filed, on November 16, 2005. As a courtesy to the Examiner, Applicants again attach a copy of the August 2, 2004 Preliminary Amendment with a copy of the date-stamped filing receipt as evidence that the Preliminary Amendment was filed and that there are no multiple dependencies in the claims.

Applicants submit the requirements of the Patent Office have been met.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §102(e)

Claims 1-3, 14, 17 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,988,818 (Fujimori '818); and claims 1-5, 14, 17 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,592,226 (Fujimori '226). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claims 14 and 17 are amended to incorporate allowable subject matter and claim 22 is canceled. Thus, with respect to claims 14, 17 and 22, this rejection is moot.

Claims 1 and 24 recite that the parallel arrangement positioning member has a plurality of pins inserted into the plurality of holes to abut on the optical component.

Although the Office Action asserts that Fujimori '226 discloses this feature, the positioning member (pin 80) of Fujimori '226 merely determines the relative position between optical components (prism 910 and panels 925), which does not position the optical components inside the casing body. See col. 10, line 26 - col. 11, line 3 of Fujimori '226. Furthermore, the positioning member of Fujimori '226 is inserted into the electro-optical device supporting frame 91, and is not inserted into a casing body.

Accordingly, contrary to the assertions made by the Office Action, Fujimori '226 does not disclose the features of claims 1 and 24.

Claims 6 and 27 each recite that the plurality of positioning members include orthogonal arrangement positioning members each of which abuts on the optical component housed in the casing body in a manner orthogonal to the illumination optical axis of the light beam irradiated by the light source to position the optical component at the predetermined position on the illumination optical axis of the light beam irradiated by the light source.

Claim 10 recites a pair of plate members opposite to both ends of the optical component housed in an inclined manner relative to the lateral side of the casing body, wherein the plurality of positioning members include an inclined arrangement positioning member that includes spacers respectively interposed between both ends of the optical component and the plate members to position the optical component at the predetermined position on the illumination optical axis of the light team irradiated by the light source by way of the spacers.

At least these features of claims 6, 10 and 27 are not disclosed by Fujimori '818 and/or Fujimori '226. Furthermore, the Office Action fails to assert that Fujimori '818 and/or Fujimori '226 disclose these features.

Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, the applied references fail to anticipate the subject matter of independent claims 1, 6, 10, 24 and 27, as well as the claims depending therefrom.


Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:LMS/eks

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal
August 2, 2004 Preliminary Amendment
Copy of PTO Date-Stamped Filing Receipt

Date: May 19, 2006

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Req. for Corr PALM Rec. w/ marked-up OFR & Supp ADS; Resp NTFMP; ck # 156875 (\$400); copy NTFMP; DEC; Prelim; 105 pp Eng-lang. spec; 60 pp drwgs (figs. 1-60); CFP; cert copies JP 2003-063087 (3/10/03), JP 2003-063121 (3/10/03) & JP 2003-114145 (4/18/03)

Name of Applicant: Masashi KITABAYASHI et al.

Serial No.: 10/796,190

Atty. File No.: 118961

Title (New Cases):

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39/8

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